

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01534 012000Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /080 W

-----029103 012006Z /73

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3097

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN 0308

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1534

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH

SUBJECT: BARBADIAN SEIZURE OF GUATEMALAN MILITARY SUPPLIES

REFS BRIDGETOWN 1533 AND PREVIOUS

1. I WAS CALLED TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THIS AFTERNOON (JULY 1) FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER. MINISTER HENRY FORDE TOLD ME THAT THE PILOT, CO-PILOT, LOAD-MASTER, AND ONE OTHER MEMBER OF THE CREW OF THE AIRPLANE THAT BROUGHT THE SUPPLIES FOR GATEMALA WOULD BE ARRAIGNED IN COURT TODAY, CHARGED WITH OFFENSES UNDER THE CHICAGO CONVENTION AND CUSTOMS OFFENSES IF FOUND GUILTY, THOSE CHARGED WOULD BE RELEASED BUT THE ARMS WOULD BE CONFISCATED. EVEN IF THEY SHOULD BE FOUND INNOCENT, THE ARMS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RELEASED.

2. FORDE ALSO SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER ADAMS HAD MET WITH GENERAL MENDOZA AND DR. HERRERA. THE GUATEMALANS HAD OFFERED
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01534 012000Z

MONEY FOR THE RELEASE OF THE ARMS AND SPOKEN OF SENDING A GUATEMALAN AIRCRAFT OR SHIP TO PICK THEM UP. GIVEN THE VIOLENT LANGUAGE USED BY MENDOZA, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ENTEBBE-TYPE ATTACK COULD NOT BE RULED OUT, FORDE ADDED.

3. IN ANSWER TO MY QUESTION AS TO THE ORIGIN OF THE ARMS, FORDE CITED THE STATEMENT OF THE PILOT THAT THEY HAD BEEN

PICKED UP ON LISBON AND HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO THE AIRCRAFT
IN PORTUGUESE ARMY TRUCKS.

4. FORDE ASKED THAT I REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM
THE GOB OF THE DEPARTURE OF ANY GUATEMALAN AIRCRAFT OR
VESSEL BOUND FOR BARBADOS, WHICH MIGHT BE REPORTED TO IT;
THAT I ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT THAT, SHOULD GUATEMALA AT-
TACK BARBADOS, THE GOB WILL LOOK TO THE USG FOR "ASSISTANCE"
AND THAT I EXPRESS TO THE DEPARTMENT THE GOB'S HOPE THAT
THE USG MIGHT FIND A WAY OF DISSUADING NOT ONLY THE PORTU-
GESE BUT ALSO THE "TAIWANESE" AND ISRAELIS FROM PROVIDING
GUATEMALA WITH ARMS.

5. I TOLD THE MINISTER ONLY THAT I WOULD REPORT THE SUB-
STANCE OF OUR DISCUSSION TO THE DEPARTMENT.
SIMMS

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Message Attributes

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